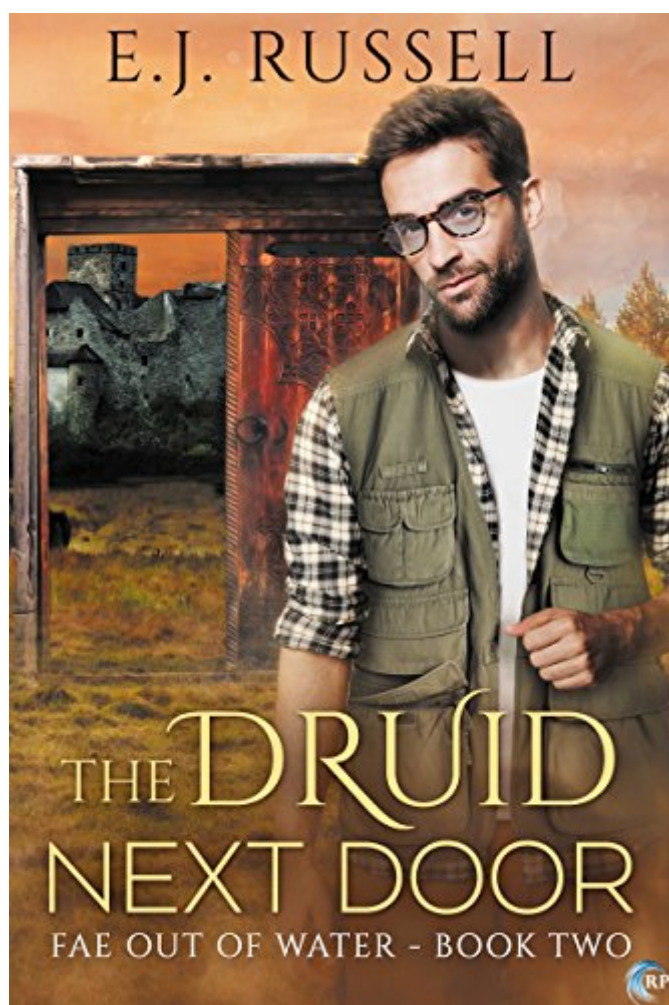


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The Druid Next Door (Fae Out Of Water Book 2)



Synopsis

Professor Bryce MacLeod has devoted his entire life to environmentalism. But how effective can he be in saving the planet when he can't even get his surly neighbor to separate his recycling? Former Queen's Enforcer Mal Kendrick doesn't think his life could get any worse: he's been exiled from Faerie with a cursed and useless right hand. When he's not dodging random fae assassins in the Outer World, he's going toe-to-toe with his tree-hugging neighbor. And when he discovers that the tree hugger is really a druid, he's certain the gods have it in for him "after all, there's always a catch with druids. Then he's magically shackled to the man and expected to instruct him in Supernatural 101. All right, now things couldn't possibly get worse. Until a mysterious stranger offers a drunken Mal the chance to gain back all he's lost "for a price. After Mal accepts, he discovers the real catch: an ancient secret that will change his and Bryce's life forever. Ah, what the hells. Odds are they won't survive the week anyway. * * * *

* * The Fae Out of Water stories can be read in series order, or enjoyed on their own. Word count: 91,200; page count: 360

Book Information

File Size: 3075 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Riptide Publishing (August 19, 2017)

Publication Date: August 19, 2017

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B074YP5BQ8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,735 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #25 in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Romance > Gay Romance #25 in Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction > Romance > Gay

Customer Reviews

So I'm a bit turn on this one. I liked it, particularly aft the beginning, the animosity to start with Mal and Bryce was good, but then it turned in a dime and suddenly they were all over each other, the emotional aspect seemed a bit to quick to turn. The bigger problem I had with it was the compulsion aspect of the "bond," which kind of resolved itself, but I still don't know if I believe why Mal was ok with it (he seemed to be three different people throughout). There was a lot of back and forth motivations between the two that didn't exactly line up. And at the same time it did, which made it a little Frustrating. It is well written book, growing the world of faerie started in the first book, with a compelling mystery and mission that provided a good adventure (interspersed with sexy scenes). So setting aside some of the disconnects, I'd recommend (only if you've read the first, though). The pair are worth knowing and it sets up the next story.

I was very glad to see the author continue the series with Alun's brother Mal. This book was fun and funny like the first but I missed the snarkiness of David from Cutie and the Beast. The problem I had with this story was that I thought Mal's personality changed a little too much. Although that could be expected with what he went through, he lost too much of his "bravado" for me. Another problem I had was that the "crises" the characters went through with the quests Steve sent them on was way too drawn out. We could have done without an entire chapter at least. Bouncing from peril to peril to peril wasn't as entertaining as I would have liked. Nevertheless, I stilled loved all the author's characters (except the queen who I thought was a self-entitled uh witch) and the way her writing flows. Can't wait for Gareth's story.

Excellent, just like the first book. Although with more sex scenes than I prefer, still, it's nice to have something to relate to! As I wrote in my previous review, it is intensely pleasing to read an author who knows how to put a sentence together and who knows how to spell and who knows how to punctuate. I do wish, though, the words sex and gender would not be continually confused, the one relating to physical characteristics and the latter to social, but I guess I'm going to have to live with it. Also, and all incipient authors take note, the word Earth when referring to the planet is capitalized!

The second book in any series can be tricky.E.J. Russell nails the story the characters are first class the devolpment of both Mal and Bryce feels organic as does the developing relationship.This book

is the second in what I'm guessing will be a trilogy, centered around 3 brothers. Fae out of Water is the first. There is a minimal amount of cross over between the first book and this while you will probably enjoy the story more if you've read the first it is not a necessity.

Lord Mal is exiled from the Fae, his right sword hand crippled. Living with humans isn't what he wanted until he meets the nerdy, ecological college professor next door. Then druid politics erupt and he becomes seriously involved. Great paranormal m/m series.

Druids and Sidhe and fae and kings and queens and not-monsters!

4.5/5 Stars This review was originally posted to the Goldilox and the Three Weres blog. Oh! The Druid Next Door! Let me count the ways that I loved thee! I loved the first book with David and Alun but I absolutely adored Mal and Bryce's story. I read it all in one sitting and I was so sad when I ran out of pages. I love the mystery, the characters, and the romance! Thanks to all the worldbuilding in the first book, the plot in this one was able to be much more complex while still being a fun read. I loved learning more about the history of the Fae and how society is made up in both the Seelie and Unseelie worlds. I will say that I only figured out part of the mystery which was nice. I hate when romance books have overly predictable villains. I wanted Mal's book from the moment he showed up in Cutie and the Beast and it didn't disappoint! He's a confident playboy who has had to adjust to the new circumstances he found himself in after being cursed at the end of the last book. And he's struggling with it. His whole sense of self was tied into being the Queen's Enforcer and he is struggling to learn how to live outside of Faerie. Mal gets himself involved in a questionable quest in an attempt to reverse his curse without meeting the conditions to do so. He learns that there's more to himself than even he thought there was and I loved being along for the ride. While I loved Mal, I absolutely adored his love interest! Bryce is my kind of guy. He's a nerdy, introverted professor on sabbatical from teaching at the local university. He's the one who designed and helps maintain the environmentally sustainable wetlands habitat that's adjacent to the green neighborhood where him and Mal live. I love that he is SO dang proud of his home that has such a small carbon footprint. Finding out he's an actual druid was outrageous and hard for him but it made sense all at the same time. Like many introverts, he is a little bit insecure and doesn't really have a lot of romantic experience. It was adorable and painful to watch him trying to navigate through what was developing between him and Mal. Watching Mal and Bryce grow and change, both individually and as a couple, was awesome and one of the things I loved the most about this book. The bonds

between these two are strong both metaphorically and literally. I loved seeing Mal accept the parts of himself that needed to be explored. Watching him accept that Bryce was his everything and seeing Bryce grow from slightly awkward professor into a take charge druid was just beautiful. I also loved that this book was much, much steamier than book one. Overall, I adored this book! I'd highly recommend this series if you're looking for a fun paranormal m/m romance. I can't wait to get my hands on the next book about Gareth! ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley.

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